

ABSTRACT

CONNECTIONLESS BROADCAST SIGNALLING

5 A communications system comprises a beacon and at least one
portable device for receiving data from the beacon. The beacon broadcasts
messages using a first protocol which provides a series of inquiry messages
which hop frequencies (such as Bluetooth). Additional data is broadcast using
a spread spectrum transmission technique. These two modes enable the
10 spread spectrum transmission technique to be used to enable an
unsynchronised receiver to establish communication in a short time, so that
data can be sent to the receiver as quickly as possible. The frequency
hopping technique may require a longer call set-up procedure, but provides a
more appropriate communications protocol for bi-directional transfer of larger
15 quantities of data.

[Fig. 1]